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09/758,820	01/11/2001	Swarupanda Ghosh	P/2167-232	9254

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EXAMINER

MOONEYHAM, JANICE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/758,820

Applicant(s)

GHOSH ET AL.

Examiner

Janice A. Mooneyham

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2005.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-37 and 39 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-37 and 39 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on November 21, 2005, wherein:

Claims 1-4, 6-37, and 39 are currently pending;

Claims 5, 38 and 40-41 have previously been cancelled;

Claims 18, 32-34 and 39 have been amended.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on November 21, 2005 is being considered by the examiner.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 32 and 33 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 32 and 33 have been amended. It is unclear what the applicant is trying to claim.

Claim 32 reads a computer readable medium containing a computer executable program code, wherein execution of said program code realizes a system according to claim 1. How does a code realize a system? What does "realize a system" mean?

Claim 33 reads a processor operable to execute a program code, wherein execution of said program code on said processor realizes said system according to

claim 1. How does a processor execute code to realize a system? What does this mean? How can you realize a system?

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 and 6-17, 37 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lederer et al (US 2002/0023109) (hereinafter referred to as Lederer) in view of Hollingsworth (US 6,157,808).

Regarding Claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-12, 16, 37 and 39:

Lederer discloses a system (for facilitating regulatory compliance):

a plurality of databases (*Figure 2 (data storage (122) [0042] The GRCS 110 also include a data storage module 122 containing various tables and/or databases,*) ;

a processor coupled to the databases operable to input information, modify information and retrieve information (*Figure 2 processing functionality 120; page 3 [[0041] Global Regulatory Compliance System (GRCS) processing functionality 120 for performing its ascribed compliance related tasks; [0050] the input/output interface 114 may be coupled to the processing functionality 116 using any type of coupling mechanism Figure 1 (114) input/output interface) that provides notification ([0055] GRCS 110 may generate a report which warns the appropriate parties), with access to*

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the one or more databases limited to authorized users ([0048] *user is individual that is authorized to gain access to the system*;; said processor connected to a worldwide network of interconnected computers (*Figure 1 and [0040] system 100 of Fig. 1 includes a Global Regulatory Compliance System (GRCS 110 coupled to multiple other systems via a system wide network 150 [0050] the interface 114 is coupled to the processing functionality 116 via any type of local area or side area network*)).

Lederer does not disclose that the databases are adapted to contain a source of licensing requirement information, a source appointments information, or licensee information. However, it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987). While features of an apparatus may be recited structurally or functionally, claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function alone. See MPEP 2114. The databases of the system set forth in Lederer are fully capable of storing licensing requirements, licensee information, appointments information, agency information, and report information as set forth in applicant's claims.

Terms such as "operable to input data" or operable to locate portions" or "connectable" are not a positive recitation. The system of Lederer has a processor connected to the databases, the processor having an interface for the input, modification, and retrieval of information, the processor capable of processing data and being connected to a network.

The language as set forth in claims 2-4 and 6-7 wherein applicant is claiming information further comprising examinations, continuing education, or that the licensee is an insurance agent or agency is determined to be non-functional descriptive data, not functionally related to the structure of the system. Claims 2-4 and 6-7 depend on claim 1, which is a system claim. The language in these claims defines the type of information, not the structure of the system. Therefore, this information adds little, if anything, to the claimed structure and thus does not serve as a limitation on the claims to distinguish over the prior art (See *In re Schreiber*, 44 USPQ2d 1429 (CAFC 1997)).

Lederer discloses a system that does compliance related processing in order to ensure compliance with regulations regarding the shipment of products between multiple regions wherein the system generates and/or maintains information concerning regulations which may comprise governmental or other administrative agency or commercially available databases that store information regarding regulations promulgated by such governmental or administrative agency [0038, 0042, 0045]. Lederer does not disclose that the system is for managing licensing information.

However, Hollingsworth discloses a system that provides a mechanism for the identification of skills and licenses which an employee needs to become competent or certified for a given trade or job and to report that the employee is in compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations related to training, development and licensing of personnel (Figure 3, (470, 472) Federal license/ license, col. 3, lines 33-40)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine the compliance related processing system of Lederer with the system for

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determining licensing compliances taught in Hollingsworth since there are highly regulated industries that place requirements upon operators to ensure all personnel are in-fact qualified to perform each of the duties that they are assigned to perform and to provide a compliance means for evaluating the compliance information as it relates to an employee and to provide assurance that an employee possess the necessary certifications and licenses to perform a particular task or duty and the employee is in compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations.

Regarding Claim 8-9:

Lederer discloses a processor operable to compare information with requirements and indicate differences (*Figures 1-2 [0013] the system provides an interface maintenance module, including functionality for (i) examining the indicated information, (ii) making changes, resubmitting [0040] these records are forwarded to the GRCS 110, which consults its internal databases and tables and formulates compliance related data [0054-0055] GRCS can successfully process information, access information in data storage to make a determination, access compliance information in data storage to determine the regulations in place, summarize its analysis*).

Regarding Claims 13 and 14:

Lederer discloses a processor connectable to a worldwide network with access capabilities (*system wide network 150 [0040], [0082] web server, [0050 interface 114 is*

*coupled to the processing functionality 116 via any type of local-area or wide area network).*

Regarding Claim 15 and 39:

Lederer discloses a communication interface (Figure 1 (114) input/output interface), said communication interface capable of accessing at least one licensing authority (*page 3 [0045] the regulation source system 112 may comprise a governmental or other administrative agency or a commercially available database that stores information regarding regulations promulgated by such governmental or administrative agency).*

Regarding Claim 17:

Lederer discloses a computer display (Figure 1 (114) input/output module; [0106] *a main screen area (1106) displays (Figure 11).*

5. Claims 18-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollingsworth (US 6,157,808) in view of (National Regulatory Services) (hereinafter referred to NRS). (Since the applicant is trying to claim a medium in claim 32-33 and since a medium is used to cause a system to perform the steps of method, the Examiner is addressing the medium with the method steps rather than the system. The



Examiner is trying to address these claims as best as the Examiner understands what the applicant is trying to claim).

Regarding Claim 18 and 32-33,

Hollingsworth discloses a method and medium containing code for managing licensing information comprising:

obtaining requirements information from a plurality of authorities relating to obtaining and maintaining a license (*col. 2, lines 43-45; Figure 3 (472/470 Federal License/License, col. 3, lines 33-40, it is an object of the present invention to provide a mechanism for the identification of skills and licenses which an employee needs to become competent or certified for a given trade or job; col. 12, lines 51-56)*);

accessing a database coupled to at least one processor comprising entity information (*col. 5, line 66 thru col. 6, line 41, col. 2, line 43 thru col. 3, line 6, abstract the system is able to establish an association between certifications and employees responsibilities*);

comparing the requirements to the entity information to produce a comparison (*Figure 16 Compliance certification, col. 2, lines 56-58 the training module also includes a compliance means for evaluating the compliance information as it relates to each employee, col. 3, lines 25-40*);

determining to what extent there is compliance (*col. 3, lines 25-40 the invention identifies and reports for each employee job/task that the employee is in compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations*), *col. 4, lines 5-9, col. 12, lines 57-64*

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*Employee Certification 460 includes determining rectification requirements; col. 15, lines 19-23 an associating module for associating one or more skills with a certification, associating one or more certifications with a job);*

Hollingsworth does not disclose obtaining appointment information from one or more supplier related to products offered and determining to what extent an entity is appointed to sell at least one or more products.

However, NRS discloses obtaining appointment information (page 4 Appointments – NRS will gather the necessary information) and determine to what extent an entity is appointed to sell one or more products (page 4 an insurance license is required to sell insurance products. NRS will gather the information, prepare the required application and forms and submit the documents).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine the appointment teaching of NRS with the employee certification and training method of Hollingsworth since a license is required to solicit, sell, negotiate or otherwise render advice relating to insurance products and every state is different when it come to the requirements of obtaining a licenses thus a compliance and consulting services would aid in this process.

Furthermore, the Examiner is interpreting an appointment as being a relationship and the language “one or more suppliers” as being a company. Therefore, the Examiner interprets the claim limitation as reading obtaining relationship information from one or more companies, said relationship information being related to one or more products offered by the company. The relationship is that of an employee and whether

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the employee possess the necessary certifications or licenses to perform a particular task or duty and is in compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations (whether the employee is authorized to perform a particular task or duty (see Hollingsworth col. 1, lines 38-44). Hollingsworth is able to establish an association between the certification and employee responsibilities and this association permits the system to identify the level or qualification of any employee and verify that the employee is qualified to perform the duties assigned (employee is authorized to perform the task) (Abstract). Furthermore, Hollingsworth discloses that tracing certifications is of critical importance to regulated industries and is supported by an employee certification history wherein the system monitors consecutive extensions and permits a record of the identify of a person who authorized the extension and the date the authorization occurred (col. 7, lines 41-47).

Moreover, the applicant never uses the appointment information in claim 18. The claim language reads on obtaining licensing requirements (disclosed in Hollingsworth (Figure 3, and col. 3, lines 33-40) and comparing licensing requirement to entity information to indicate compliance and determining the extent of the compliance (disclosed in Hollingsworth in col. 2, lines 50-58 the training module includes a compliance means for evaluating the compliance information as it relates to each employee col. 3, lines 33-40).

Regarding Claim 19:

Hollingsworth discloses a method comprising identifying actions required by the entity to obtain and maintain a license (*col. 2, line 38- col. 3, line 6, col. 2, lines 25-40 compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations relating to training, development and licensing of personal*); and

prompting (automatically notifying) the entity to take the required action (*col. 2, lines 43-58, col. 3, lines 25-39 invention identifies and reports compliance; col. 4, lines 3-9 another object of the invention is to instantly identify the level of qualification of any employee and verify that he or she is in facet qualified, the reporting capability serves to reduce the employer's exposure to the liability of unqualified workers performing tasks*).

Regarding Claim 20:

NRS discloses providing the required forms to the entity wherein the entity submits the completed forms to the licensing authority (*NRS page 4 NRS will gather necessary information, complete the state specified appointment forms and submit the documents to the appropriate carrier, NRS submit the documents to the insurance department for approval*) thus updating the compliance status (*if not complaint before, would be complaint upon completion of the process*).

Regarding Claim 21:

Hollingsworth discloses automatically prompting (*page 3, lines 16-24 the present invention (a computerized system) provides full support for identifying and reporting; col.*

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*4, lines 3-9 another object of the invention is to instantly identify the level of qualification of any employee and verify that he or she is in facet qualified, the reporting capability serves to reduce the employer's exposure to the liability of unqualified workers performing tasks.)*

Regarding Claims 22-23:

Hollingsworth discloses wherein the licensing requirement information comprises examination information and continuing education requirements (*Figure 3 (453), Figure 13 (Exam) and continuing education requirements (col. 3, lines 7-40 continuing training needs; also, see col. 10, lines 58-67 and col. 11, line 31 thru col. 12, line 19).*

Regarding Claims 24-25:

NRS disclose the entity being an insurance agent or agency (*page 3 Insurance services, page 4 compliance guides for agencies, page 5 preparation and filing licensing applications for up to four active individuals (agents)*)

Regarding Claim 26:

Hollingsworth discloses inputting the entity information into a database, modifying the information, retrieving the information, and viewing the information (*col. 4, lines 26-67 a GUI providing a user an interface to view and update).*

Regarding Claim 27:

Hollingsworth discloses obtaining continuing education provider information including curriculum information (*col. 3, lines 16-24, col. 4, lines 55-57 - training program, course, lesson; col. 8, lines 8-16*).

Regarding Claims 28-29:

Hollingsworth discloses searching the entity information database to retrieve status information pertaining to a particular entity (*compliance information col. 2, lines 43-45; col. 3, lines 16-40*).

Regarding Claim 30:

Hollingsworth discloses notifying at least one entity of at least one of said status, change in status and upcoming requirements for obtaining or maintaining license (*page 3, lines 16-24 the present invention (a computerized system) provides full support for identifying and reporting; col. 4, lines 3-9 another object of the invention is to instantly identify the level of qualification of any employee and verify that he or she is in facet qualified, the reporting capability serves to reduce the employer's exposure to the liability of unqualified workers performing tasks.*)

Regarding Claim 31:

NRS discloses providing materials usable by the entity to satisfy the licensing requirement (*page 4 compliance guides – desktop reference guide provides organizations with an awareness of the requirements of the law, rules and regulations*).

Regarding Claims 34 and 35:

Hollingsworth discloses a method for determining compliance with license requirements, comprising:

obtaining licensing requirements information from a plurality of licensing authorities by way of at least one processor capable of accessing at least one of a plurality of licensing authorities through a communication interface, said licensing requirements information being related to licensing requirements for at least one of obtaining and maintaining a license, said licensing requirements information being stored in a database coupled to at least one processor (*Figure 3 License col. 3, lines 33-40; col. 2, lines 43-45; Figure 3 (472/470 Federal License/License, col. 3, lines 33-40, it is an object of the present invention to provide a mechanism for the identification of skills and licenses which an employee needs to become competent or certified for a given trade or job; col. 12, lines 51-56)*;

organizing licensee information related to at least one licensee, said licensee capable of holding a license from some of a plurality of license authorities (col. 3, lines 33-40);

organizing status information related to the status of the licensee (col. 3, lines 33-40); and

determining from a comparison between said status licensing whether the licensee is in compliance and making a determination as to whether the licensee is in compliance (*col. 3, lines 33-40 provides a mechanism for the identification of skills and licenses which an employee needs. For each employee job/task the invention identifies and reports compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations related to training, development and licensing*).

As for the newly added claim limitation of obtaining appointments information from one or more suppliers, said appointments information being related to one or more products offered by said one or more supplies, said appointments information being stored in said database, the applicant never uses the appointment information in claim 18. The claim language reads on obtaining licensing requirements (disclosed in Hollingsworth (Figure 3, and col. 3, lines 33-40) and comparing licensing requirement to entity information to indicate compliance and determining the extent of the compliance (disclosed in Hollingsworth in col. 2, lines 50-58 the training module includes a compliance means for evaluating the compliance information as it relates to each employee col. 3, lines 33-40). The fact that the information is appointment information is determined to be non-functional descriptive data which adds little to the claimed steps and thus do not serve as a limitation on the claims to distinguish over the prior art (See *In re Schreiber*, 44 USPQ2d 1429 (CAFC 1997).



Regarding Claim 36:

Hollingsworth discloses notifying the licensee of the status or change in status and upcoming licensing requirements (col. 3, lines 25-40 identifies and reports).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed November 21, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. Claim Rejection under 35 USC Section 112, first paragraph has been withdrawn.

Claims Rejections under 35 USC Section 103:

7. Lederer and Hollingsworth:

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the motivation to combine is found in the Hollingsworth reference (see col. 1, lines 25-44).

As for the applicant's argument that claims 1, 37 and 39 recite the feature of an appointment database adapted to contain a source of appointments, the Examiner fully addressed the Examiner's position in the rejection. It is the Examiner's position that it

has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987). While features of an apparatus may be recited structurally or functionally, claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function alone. See MPEP 2114. The databases of the system set forth in Lederer are fully capable of storing licensing requirements, licensee information, appointments information, agency information, and report information as set forth in applicant's claims.

As for the applicant's arguments that Claims 18 and 34 recite that the method includes the step of obtaining appointment information and determining an extent to which the entity is appointed/authorized to sell one or more products, the Examiner addressed this limitations fully in the rejection, also. The Examiner is interpreting an appointment as being a relationship, i.e., as when an agent has a relationship with an insurance company, and the language "one or more suppliers" as being a company. Therefore, the Examiner interprets the claim limitation as reading obtaining relationship information from one or more companies, said relationship information being related to one or more products offered by the company. The relationship is that of an employee and whether the employee possess the necessary certifications or licenses to perform a particular task or duty and is in compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations (whether the employee is authorized to perform a particular task or duty (see Hollingsworth col. 1, lines 38-44). Hollingsworth is able to establish an association

between the certification and employee responsibilities and this association permits the system to identify the level or qualification of any employee and verify that the employee is qualified to perform the duties assigned (employee is authorized to perform the task) (Abstract). Furthermore, Hollingsworth discloses that tracing certifications is of critical importance to regulated industries and is supported by an employee certification history wherein the system monitors consecutive extensions and permits a record of the identify of a person who authorized the extension and the date the authorization occurred (col. 7, lines 41-47).

Moreover, the applicant never uses the appointment information in claims 18 and 34. The claim language reads on obtaining licensing requirements (disclosed in Hollingsworth (Figure 3, and col. 3, lines 33-40) and comparing licensing requirement to entity information to indicate compliance and determining the extent of the compliance (disclosed in Hollingsworth in col. 2, lines 50-58 the training module includes a compliance means for evaluating the compliance information as it relates to each employee col. 3, lines 33-40).

8. Hollingsworth and NRS:

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, as in the case of NRS, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). NRS is used in combination with Hollingsworth.

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In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the motivation to combine Hollingsworth with NRS is found in the secondary reference on page 4.

***Conclusion***

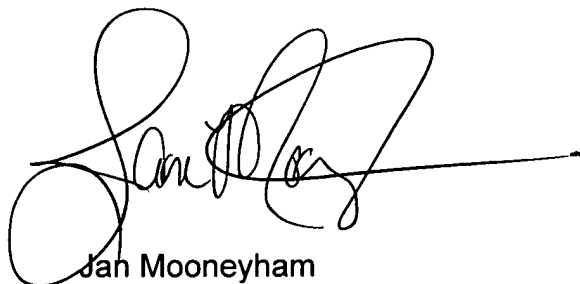
**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janice A. Mooneyham whose telephone number is (571) 272-6805. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Mooneyham", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jan Mooneyham  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3629